

Appl. No. 09/000,004
Amendment dated April 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Jan. 21, 2003

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-30 (canceled)

~~31.~~ (currently amended) A method for identifying a mammal having or at risk for developing glomerulonephropathy comprising the steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain cells expressing $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of $\alpha 1$ integrin subunit expression or an increased level of $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with the presence of or risk of developing nephropathy.

~~32.~~ (currently amended) A method for identifying a mammal having or at risk for developing glomerulonephropathy comprising the steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain cells expressing $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of $\alpha 1$ integrin subunit expression and an increased level of $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with the presence of or risk of developing nephropathy.

33. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the mammal is a human.

34. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the tissue sample is a kidney biopsy, a skin biopsy, or blood.

35-42 (withdrawn)

43. (canceled)

44. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the control sample is from a mammal having no history of hypertension.

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45. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein an increase of about 25% - 100% in the level of $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control is correlated with nephropathy.

46. (previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein a decrease of about 25% - 100% in the level of $\alpha 1$ integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control is correlated with nephropathy.

47. (currently amended) A method for identifying a mammal having diabetes who has or is at risk for developing secondary pathological changes associated with diabetes comprising the steps of:

analyzing integrin subunit expression in a mammalian tissue sample known to contain cells expressing $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ integrin subunits and in a control tissue sample, wherein said analyzing comprises incubating the sample with an anti-integrin subunit antibody; and

correlating a decreased level of $\alpha 1$ integrin subunit expression and/or an increased level of $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit expression in the sample tissue as compared with the control tissue with the presence of or risk of developing secondary pathological changes associated with diabetes.

48. (currently amended) A kit for the diagnosis of nephropathy comprising:
a set of ~~hybridization probes or~~ antibodies capable of detecting each of $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit expression in a tissue sample; and
 $\alpha 1$ and $\alpha 2$ integrin subunit standards.

Amel
49-51 (withdrawn)

52. (canceled)

53-56 (withdrawn)